

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-3 and 5-7 are amended, claim 1 is cancelled. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2, 4 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 5 and 7 are amended to depend from allowed claim 2. The remaining claims depend from allowed claim 2.

I. Objection to the Abstract

The Office Action objects to the Abstract for being a run-on sentence.

An amended Abstract is attached. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. §102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over PCT Publication WO 03/048821 A1 to Wing Hon et al. (as clarified by the Examiner in a telephone conference); rejects claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over European Patent Application EP 0 962 694 A1 to Onikiri et al.; and rejects claims 1, 3, 5 and 7-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over European Patent Application EP 1103759 to Kaga et al.

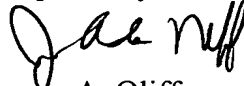
As addressed above, the Office Action acknowledges that claims 2 and 6 contain patentable subject matter. Claims 2 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form. The remaining claims depend from one of allowable claims 2 and 6 and, therefore, are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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